

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 FDRE-00 AID-05 DHA-02 EB-07 HEW-06 IO-13

SCSE-00 SCA-01 /088 W

----- 118180

O R 131550Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7599

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION NATO

SEC DEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CSA

CASF

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CDR USASETAF VICENZA

CDR 40TH TAC GP AVIANO

CDR 8TH SUPPORT GP LIVORNO

UNCLAS ROME 7822

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWELL, IT

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE, MEDIA REACTION, US VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

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1. VICE PRESIDENT'S ROCKEFELLER'S ARRIVAL IN AVIANO AND UDINE REPORTED ALL TV AND RADIO MIDDAY (THURSDAY) NEWSCASTS, LEADS TV 1300 NEWS. ARRIVAL STATEMENT QUOTED ON RADIO. REPORTS ON EARTHQUAKE ON NORTHERN ITALY CONTINUE TO LEAD ALL MEDIA FOR THE SEVENTH STRAIGHT DAY. TV, RADIO AND SEVERAL PAPERS FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT'S DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM INCLUDING APPROPRIATION OF RELIEF FUNDS FOR OVER 452,000 DOLLARS. UPCOMING VISIT OF VP ROCKEFELLER REPORTED FACTUALLY, WITH NO NEGATIVE COMMENT. VISIT REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCED ALL RADIO AND TV NEWSCASTS AND ALL PAPERS EXCEPT SOCIALIST PRESS (VANTI, IL MESSAGGERO AND LA REPUBBLICA). PAESE SERA'S REPORT STRESSES THAT VICE PRESIDENT IS VISITING EARTHQUAKE STRICKEN AREA "TO INSPECT DAMAGE AND REPORT ON WAYS IN WHICH US CAN BEST BE OF ASSISTANCE." MARINO DE MEDICI IN IL TEMPO PRAISES EXCEPTIONAL RAPIDITY IN APPROPRIATING FUNDS. AVANTI: NOTES THAT "US CONTRIBUTION IS BIGGEST AFTER ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S APPROPRIATION. MANIFESTO STATES THAT "ROCKEFELLER ARRIVES TODAY: HE BRINGS DOLLARS AND IS AFTER VOTES OF ITALIAN COMMUNITY IN AMERICA."

2. AVANTI: NOTES THAT "THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IS AMOUNT APPROPRIATED BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWED BY 21 BILLION LIRE APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS UPON FORD'S REQUEST.

3. MARINO DE MEDICI IN IL TEMPO STRESSES "EXCEPTIONAL RAPIDITY WITH WHICH SENATE APPROVED APPROPRIATION. CREDIT GOES TO SENATOR JOHN PASTORE WHO PRESENTED THE AMENDMENT WHICH PASSED AUTOMATICALLY AND WITHOUT OPPOSITION. IN PRESENTING THE AMENDMENT, PASTORE WAS SUPPORTED BY REPUBBLICAN SENATOR EDWARD BROOKE OF MASSACHUSETTS WHO IS MARRIED TO AN ITALIAN. REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION WAS INSTANTANEOUS AND APPROVAL WAS INSTANTANEOUS TOO, AS NOTED IN CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES. VOLPE

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